



RHAPSODY OF THE SEAS

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INSTANT! News Services

WORLD IN BRIEF

Europe's protests widen

BRUSSELS - Angry truckers brought traffic in Brussels, the EU capital, to a near standstill Monday in the latest sign of spreading protests across Europe over sky-high fuel prices.

OPEC are not to blame

DUBAI - Newspapers in the oil-rich Gulf Arab monarchies insisted Monday that OPEC was not to blame for high oil prices which have threatened the economies of industrialised countries.

Oil price plan offered

ROME - Italy's President Carlo Azeglio Ciampi on Monday set out his idea of an oil price stabilization mechanism based on joint action between producing and consuming countries, a presidential spokesperson said.

Officials are cautious

WASHINGTON - A decision by leading oil producers to boost output by 800,000 barrels a day failed to dampen prices in early New York trading Monday, as US officials and analysts gave a guarded welcome to the weekend move by OPEC ministers.

Wen Ho Lee to walk free

SANTA FE, New Mexico - Taiwan-born scientist Wen Ho Lee, once linked to allegations of Chinese spying on US nuclear secrets, is expected to walk free from jail here Monday after the government drops almost its entire case against him.

Hostages arrive in Libya

TRIPOLI - Four European hostages, freed by the Abu Sayyaf rebels in the Philippines, landed in Tripoli on Monday at 1530 GMT, a journalist at the scene said.

Crew bring station to life

HOUSTON, Texas - After a successful launch, the crew of the space shuttle Atlantis will begin a new chapter in the International Space Station saga Monday night, boarding the station and bringing it to life for the first time.

Anger flares after floods

ROME - Anger flared in Italy Monday after at least 12 people, five of them handicapped, were swept to their deaths when a river broke its banks and devastated a campsite in Italy's southern Calabria region.

Sanctions could be lifted

PARIS - European leaders indicated late Monday that a decision to lift sanctions on Austria following the EU-backed report by experts on the situation there could be taken in the coming hours.

Blair: We won't cave in to fuel protesters

Prime Minister Tony Blair ruled out any Government concessions on Monday in the face of protests over the soaring price of fuel.

"We cannot and we will not alter Government policy on petrol through blockades and pickets," he said.

"That's not the way to make policy in Britain and as far as I'm concerned it never will be."

Mr Blair, in Loughborough to launch a campaign to boost e-commerce, added: "We fully understand, indeed we share the concerns of businesses and motorists about the high fuel price."

But he went on: "It's important to recognise that the reason for the recent rise in fuel prices is to do with the rise in world oil prices."

"The sensible way, the only right way to deal with this problem, is to put pressure

on Opec, it's not to get them off the hook by caving in to pressure."

The Prime Minister said that was not just Britain's position. "It's the position of every government in the industrialised world."

He added: "Though it's absolutely correct to say that in the first two years of the Government we did raise the fuel duty, it was necessary to sort out the economy."

Mr Blair echoed Trade and Industry Secretary Stephen Byers' refusal to pledge a cut in fuel prices.

He insisted that there was no danger of fuel supplies drying up, saying that shortages at the pumps were due to panic buying, not to the effect of demonstrations.

More than 100 filling stations in the north west of England alone had run out of supplies by Monday morning because of the fuel depot blockades, with dozens more expected to run short during the day.

Fuel protest 'may bring Britain to standstill'

A lorry drivers' leader on Monday warned that Britain will come to a "standstill" by the end of the week if action is not taken to end the escalating protests over fuel prices.

The Transport and General Workers Union on Monday began advising its members not to take lorries on to the road if they fear for their safety following a series of incidents where tankers have been targeted by protesters and ordinary motorists.

Danny Bryan, the union's national officer for transport, warned of a potential "catastrophe" because oil tankers were being cut up on motorways.

In another incident, believed to be at the Stanlow terminal in Cheshire, a lorry had its cab smashed by an object thrown by a protester.

Cook: Troops will stay in Sierra Leone

Foreign Secretary Robin Cook said on Monday that he was deeply saddened by the death of a British paratrooper during the rescue mission in Sierra Leone.

But he insisted that British military operations in the country would continue.

The paratrooper was killed as six British soldiers held by the rebel West Side Boys were rescued after being taken hostage on August 25.

Mr Cook was speaking at a press conference at Heathrow Airport, before flying to the United Nations' headquarters in New York where he will meet the UN Secretary General Kofi Annan.

The situation in Sierra Leone will be top of their agenda.

"I am greatly relieved that all the British hostages have been rescued. I am incredibly impressed by the professionalism and discipline with which the British troops have carried out the action," he said.

Paras fly home after daring jungle rescue

Paratroopers involved in the dawn raid which freed six British soldiers from captivity in Sierra Leone are due to fly home on Monday, a Ministry of Defence spokesman said.

Lieutenant Commander Tony Cramp, the British military spokesman in Sierra Leone, said they would be flown home from Royal Fleet Auxiliary Argus, an aviation training and casualty support ship, sent to Sierra Leone for the rescue mission.

The 150-strong company from the 1st Battalion of the Parachute Regiment were sent to West Africa last week as the hostage crisis escalated.

Lt Cdr Cramp said: "Preparations are being made for them to be flown home from Argus later today."

He said the British serviceman who was badly wounded during Sunday's operation was in a "comfortable" condition.

Blair launches £1bn Internet revolution

Prime Minister Tony Blair on Monday launched a £1 billion drive to get all government services online by 2005.

Mr Blair also said £15 million would be allocated to help businesses benefit from the Internet and announced the first raft of 600 online centres to give hi-tech access to poorer communities.

Mr Blair, speaking in Loughborough, Leicestershire, declared the UK Online initiatives were designed to get business, people and government hooked up to the Internet.

He said: "My argument is simple. There is no new economy. There is one economy all of it being transformed by information technology."

"What is happening is no dot.com fad that will come and go - it is a profound economic revolution."

'Absent' rapist jailed for 12 years

A rapist who jumped bail and fled to the Continent as the jury was considering his case, was on Monday given a 12 year jail sentence in his absence.

Trevor Masters, 48, was found guilty of one rape and a range of other sexual offences, some against young girls, at a three week trial at Cardiff Crown Court last month.

On Monday Judge John Griffith Williams QC who released Masters on bail as the jury was deliberating sentenced him to a total of 12 years at the same court.

PEOPLE

CROSS-DRESSING COMIC SCOOPS EMMY AWARDS: British comedian Eddie Izzard known for his distinctive dress sense as much as his humour was the toast of Hollywood on Monday after scooping two Emmy awards.

His critically acclaimed one-man show **Eddie Izzard: Dress to Kill** took voters of the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences by storm.

He won Emmys for writing the show and for his performance, beating American's gag-writing heavyweights like fellow nominees on the Late Show With David Letterman and Late Night With Conan O'Brien.

His show was filmed for American channel HBO at the Stage Door Theatre in San Francisco in September 1998, and his unique blend of rambling humour and transvestitism has also played to sold-out houses in New York and Los Angeles.

The judge described Masters as "a self-centred, short-tempered and violent man who wanted his own way".

Sarah parents demand access to sex offenders' register

The parents of murdered schoolgirl Sarah Payne were on Monday meeting Home Secretary Jack Straw to argue that parents should be given access to a register of sex offenders.

A Home Office spokesman said that during the private meeting Mr Straw will be discussing with the couple issues surrounding possible changes to the Sex Offenders Act.

Mrs Payne said she wanted changes made to allow parents to know exactly who their neighbours were.

She was also appealing for tougher sentences for paedophiles. She said: "The change in the law is what this country wants. The country has asked us to carry it forward and that is what we will do. For Sarah."

Union launches campaign against 'greedy pigs' pay

Company chiefs were labelled "greedy pigs" on Monday as a new campaign against executive pay was launched with the help of a live pig.

A 300-kilogramme Berkshire boar named Luc, after Marks and Spencer chairman Luc Van der Velde, was paraded outside the TUC Congress in Glasgow.

The GMB union bought the pig as part of a fresh assault against huge pay rises by company bosses.

The union published a new report showing that London and the South East were top of the country's "fat cat league".

Three teenagers die in crash

Three teenagers died after their car hit a bus, police said on Monday.

The three a 17-year-old from Leeds and two 19-year-olds, from Wakefield and Huddersfield died on Sunday after their Vauxhall Corsa was in a collision with a single-deck bus in Cleckheaton, West Yorkshire.

The teenagers were cut free from the wreckage by fire crews, but were certified dead in hospital.

Man dies walking with fiancée

A 37-year-old man died in an accident as he walked with his fiancée just weeks before they were due to marry, it emerged on Monday.

David Boyden and his fiancée were walking home from a Chinese takeaway in Royston, South Yorkshire, on Sunday night after their taxi failed to turn up when he was involved in an accident with a Renault Megane car, said a police spokesman.

Mr Boyden, who was due to marry in three weeks' time in Las Vegas, died after being taken to Barnsley District Hospital with serious head injuries.

Soaring Stansted leads take-off in passenger numbers

The number of passengers travelling through London's three main airports rose by nearly 6% last year, with the biggest growth coming through Stansted, figures on Monday showed.

Statistics from airports operator BAA showed that nearly 106 million passengers passed through London's Heathrow, Gatwick and Stansted airports in the year to August, an increase of 5.7% on last year.

The biggest rise came at Stansted, which saw numbers increase by 29.4% to reach 11,064,500 on the year, said BAA.

Deaf-blind man sets jetski record

A deaf-blind man was on Monday celebrating setting a new jetskiing record in British waters voyaging from Land's End to the Isles of Scilly and back.

After tackling six-foot waves on his four-hour round trip 39-year-old Graham Hicks, from Peterborough, Cambridgeshire, was easing his stiff joints and contemplating new challenges.

Mr Hicks on Sunday became the first person to drive a jetski from the UK mainland to the Scillies and back when he set out from Sennen Cove, near Land's End, landed on Town Beach at St Mary's, then returned.

LONDON CLOSING PRICES

Closing prices Monday		
3i	1747.00	AstrZen 3185.00
AB Food	347.75	BAA 520.00
AMVSCP	1376.00	BAE Sys 381.50
ARM Hld	776.00	BATobco 423.50
Abbey N	937.00	BO 432.50
Airtour	271.50	BOC 950.00
Al&Leic	542.00	BP Amco 671.00
AllDom	325.00	BSkyB 1157.00
AlldZur	809.50	BT 816.00
Amey	1325.00	BaltmrT 762.00
Anglian	526.50	Barclay 1715.00
AngloAm	4075.00	Bass 665.00

Billitn	285.00	ColtTel 2130.00
Bk Scot	571.50	Compctr 448.50
BlueCir	410.00	Cordian 364.00
Boots	511.00	DMail A 1100.00
Br Air	311.50	Debnhms 200.00
Br Rner	199.75	Diageo 587.00
Britanc	1092.50	Dixons 236.50
CMG	1322.00	EMAP 1150.00
Cable W	1176.00	EMI 580.00
Cadbury	394.50	Electro 788.00
Capita	571.00	Energis 601.00
Carlton	695.00	FgmCoEu 737.50
Celltec	1497.00	Freessrv 301.25
Centric	223.50	GKN 795.00

GUS	467.50	LandSec 782.00
Glaxo W	1910.00	Legal G 172.50
GranCom	707.00	LloyTSB 625.00
HSBCord	1033.00	Logica 2100.00
Halifax	532.00	M&S 212.25
Hanson	385.75	Marooni 1105.50
Hays	415.00	Matalan 599.00
Hilton	213.00	Misys 683.00
Hyder	364.00	Nat Grd 528.00
ICI	435.00	Nat Pwr 460.00
Invsys	153.25	Next 608.00
KeldaGp	321.75	NthRock 392.50
KingCom	502.50	NycoAms 617.50
Kingf'r	445.50	Old Mut 178.00

P&O dfd	605.00	Reuters 1344.00
Pearson	1895.00	RioTint 1208.00
PennonG	599.50	Rolls-R 181.50
Perpetu	3962.50	RoyBank 1330.00
Pilking	88.50	RoySun 455.00
PowerGn	515.50	SA Brew 494.50
Prudent	932.00	Safeway 272.50
Psion	793.00	Sage 607.00
RMC Grp	610.00	Sainsbu 355.00
Railtrk	985.00	SchrN/V 1159.00
Rank	170.25	Schrodr 1351.00
Reckitt	812.00	ScoSouE 510.00
Reed	591.50	ScotNew 417.00
Rentokl	150.50	ScotPwr 495.00

Sema	1201.00	ThamesW 931.00
SevernT	662.00	Tomkins 210.00
Shell	627.00	Unilevr 415.00
ShirPhm	1273.00	UtdNews 816.00
SmithKB	863.50	UtdUtil 620.00
SmithWH	353.00	Virdian 661.50
Spikeet	659.75	Vodafone 271.25
Stageco	68.75	Vospert 1362.50
StanCha	1011.00	WPP 967.00
Tate Ly	260.00	Whitbre 454.00
Telewes	175.50	Wolsely 340.75
Tesco	213.25	Woolwh 360.00

FOREX SPOT TABLE

London cross rates: Monday			
	USD	EURO	GBP
USD		0.8631	1.4160
EUR	1.1586		1.6405
GBP	0.70824	0.60956	
JFY	106.18	91.644	150.35
CHF	1.7796	1.5360	2.5198
AUD	1.7968	1.5508	2.5442
CAD	1.4773	1.2750	2.0917
HKD	7.7984	6.7308	11.042
NOK	9.3025	8.0290	13.172
SGD	1.7370	1.4992	2.4595
SEK	9.6970	8.3695	13.730

MONDAY'S FOOTBALL RESULTS

UEFA CUP

First Round, first leg
Bohemians 1-3 K'serslautern

FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP

Tottenham 1-0 West Ham

NATIONWIDE CONFERENCE

Hednesford 0-0 Morecambe
Stevenage 1-1 Dover

Blair dads 'feel ignored'

New fathers feel ignored, ill-informed and unsupported by doctors, midwives and health visitors, according to a survey published on Monday.

The largest-ever survey of dads found that one third felt they had been ignored by health workers and one in 10 said midwives and doctors had even avoided eye contact.

The men surveyed for the National Childbirth Trust and Fathers Direct, an information service for new dads, have been labelled "Blair Fathers" as their children are the same age as the Prime Minister's three-month-old son.

Last days of style icon

Two British stars with a strong connection to the 1960s were on Monday saluting another British style icon, the Mini Classic car, as it enters its last phase of production at Longbridge.

Twiggy, the supermodel of the Swinging Sixties, and Jade Jagger, jewellery designer, model and daughter of Rolling Stone Mick, were appearing with one of the last Mini Classics to be produced.

After its debut in 1959, the Mini was quickly adopted by the fashionable set.

At the beginning of next month, the last Mini Classic will roll off the production line at Rover Group's plant in Birmingham, and by the end of the year the cars will have disappeared from showrooms.

FINANCIAL NEWS

Rogue trade causes havoc as

Footsie falls

A rogue trade on the stock market caused havoc on Monday, triggering a massive dive in shares early in the session.

The FTSE-100 Index suffered a huge 208.6-point fall following an error at a European brokerage house, which led to 23 stocks being temporarily suspended.

However, the mistake - currently being investigated by the London Stock Exchange - was quickly spotted and the market by and large regained its position during the day.

By the close the Footsie was off 18.7 points at 6582 points, kept lower by falls in a clutch of technology and telecoms stocks.

S P O R T S N E W S

Campbell header seals spurs victory

TOTTENHAM 1 WEST HAM 0: Tottenham hero Sol Campbell stormed forward to grab the goal which keeps his team breathing down the necks of the Premiership pacesetters.

The England defender showed his team-mates the way to beat Shaka Hislop with a powerful second-half header which proved enough to settle a frenzied London derby.

Defeat for Harry Redknapp's team leaves the Eastenders still searching for their first win of the new season and they will look back to rue a clutch of first-half chances which went begging.

A fine performance from Neil Sullivan had kept Spurs in the hunt. He produced a string of vital saves during a breathless opening to this London showdown.

2003 Final too early for new Wembley, officials confirm

Officials have confirmed the 2003 FA Cup Final will not be held at Wembley despite the announcement that a new contractor has been found to build the £475million stadium.

Australian construction company Multiplex builders of the magnificent Stadium Australia complex which forms the focal point for the Olympic Games have agreed a contract price of £326.5million less than two weeks after their consortium with Bovis declared it could not be done.

Eranio claims ref apologised

Stefano Eranio claimed on Monday referee Peter Jones apologised for not handing Derby a late penalty during their 2-2 draw with Charlton.

The Rams captain was fuming when he was hacked down by Mark Kinsella 10 minutes from time at Pride Park.

Referee Jones waved play on and Eranio was booked for protesting. "A couple of minutes later the referee said he was sorry and that he might have got the decision wrong," the Italian insisted.

Ginola: I want to be a sweeper!

David Ginola wants to prolong his career in professional football by moving back into the defence and playing as a sweeper.

INTERNATIONAL WEATHER

24hr period ending noon Monday

	Hi	Lo	Weather
Amsterdam	74	54	Cloudy
Athens	85	66	Clear
Auckland	60	46	Cloudy
Berlin	72	62	Cloudy
Brussels	78	56	Cloudy
Cairo	92	70	Clear
Copenhagen	65	48	Cloudy
Dublin	67	60	Cloudy
Geneva	77	55	Clear
Hong Kong	88	77	Cloudy
Istanbul	79	65	Cloudy
Johannesburg	78	40	Clear
London	78	60	Cloudy
Madrid	92	62	Cloudy
Manila	86	75	Rain
Moscow	63	50	Rain
New Delhi	94	77	Cloudy
New York City	80	68	PCldy
Paris	82	57	Clear
Rome	83	55	Clear
Singapore	91	77	Cloudy
Stockholm	66	45	Clear
Sydney	73	48	Cloudy
Tokyo	82	75	Rain
Toronto	79	66	Rain
Zurich	76	50	Cloudy

U.K. WEATHER

1200 GMT, Monday	11th September
Aberdeen	11 52 rain
Belfast	19 66 haze
Birmingham	26 79 partly cloudy
Bournemouth	22 72 sunny
Culdrose	17 63 drizzle
Exeter	22 72 sunny
London	26 79 cloudy
Manchester	23 73 haze
Nottingham	25 77 sunny
Stornoway	13 55 cloudy
Valley	21 70 cloudy

Outlook

Tuesday: Southern England and Wales will brighten up in the morning as the mist, low cloud and drizzle is burnt off. This will leave a bright day and it will stay dry in the far west.

However, showers will develop further east, with a few of these turning heavy over East Anglia and Lincolnshire. Northern England and southern Scotland will start with light rain in the east but it will turn brighter from the west. Northern Scotland will be dry with sunny spells but it will feel chilly.

The 33-year-old French winger is carving out a new chapter of his career at Aston Villa following his £3million summer move from Tottenham, and insists his appetite for the game is still as strong as ever.

"I am not yet fed up with football and I honestly believe I will never ever be fed up with football," he said.

Cole set for sparta start

Teenaged defender Ashley Cole could follow up his rescue-act for Arsenal at Bradford on Saturday with a Champions League debut when the Gunners take on Sparta Prague in the Czech Republic on Tuesday.

Inquiry opened into tragic track accident

A judicial inquiry into the death of a fire marshal during Sunday's Italian Grand Prix at Monza could be concluded as early as on Monday.

Formula One was left in shock after Paolo Ghislimberti, a 30-year-old from Trento, was killed following an accident involving five cars at the second chicane.

Ghislimberti died in the First Aid room at Monza Hospital as a result of the serious injuries he suffered at the track.

Either a tyre or the nose of Pedro de la Rosa's cartwheeling Arrows is understood to have struck Ghislimberti, who sustained what was described as serious head and chest trauma.

Cole, 19, replaced injured Brazilian star Silvinho at Valley Parade and scored Arsenal's equaliser in a 1-1 draw in only his second senior start.

Now, with Silvinho still suffering from a thigh injury, Cole could start again and manager Arsene Wenger said: "I would have no fears about him."

Rusedski targets Tashkent title

Greg Rusedski set his sights on the President's Cup title after reaching the second round of the tournament at the expense of Armenia's Sargis Sargsian in Tashkent on Monday.

Following a first-round win for fellow Briton Jamie Delgado earlier on Monday, Rusedski got the better of Sargsian 6-3 7-5 this afternoon.

The British number two already has one eye on his Olympic challenge but said: "I am taking it one match at a time and I am going out to enjoy my tennis."

Olympics don't exist for me: Richardson

Olympic medal hope Mark Richardson will not be able to watch the opening ceremony on Friday after pulling out of the Sydney Games because of a drugs controversy.

The 400 metres runner decided to withdraw from the British squad rather than go through an appeal on the second day of the Games.

Richardson will shut himself away on Friday and not watch any of the opening ceremony. He intends to concentrate on clearing his name after testing positive for the banned substance nandrolone.

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Injury calls time on Hunter's quest for Olympic gold

World shot put champion CJ Hunter's dreams of making it a possible six Olympic golds for him and his wife Marion Jones ended on Monday when he pulled out because of a knee injury which he picked up last month.

The 31-year-old, who won the world title in Seville last year on his final throw, injured his knee while weightlifting in London and although he underwent an operation he had to admit defeat.

Monday's cricket summaries

PPP HEALTHCARE COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP - DIVISION ONE - At Old Trafford: Somerset 132 (J Cox 53, G Chapple 4-34) & 222 (P D Bowler 75) v Lancashire 463-9 dec (W K Hegg 128, G D Lloyd 126, M A Atherton 57). Lancashire (20pts) beat Somerset (3pts) by an innings and 109 runs Canterbury.

At Scarborough: Yorkshire 401 (A McGrath 133, D S Lehmann 116, M P Vaughan 69, M V Fleming 4-77) & 145 (M A Ealham 5-35, M J Siggers 4-45) v Kent 317 (R Dravid 72, M J Hoggard 4-46) & 197 (M J McCague 72, G M Hamilton 4-34). Yorkshire (20pts) beat Kent (6pts) by 32 runs

NORWICH UNION NCL - DIVISION TWO - At Southampton: Derbyshire Scorpions 195-9 Innings Complete (L D Sutton 53 no, J P Pyemont 50, S K Warne 4-23) v Hampshire Hawks 191-9 (D A Kenway 90, M E Cassar 4-29). Derbyshire Scorpions beat Hampshire Hawks by 4 runs.

At Trent Bridge: Nottinghamshire Outlaws 229-9 Innings Complete (P Johnson 62, U Afzaal 51) v Glamorgan Dragons 226-9 Innings Complete (M P Maynard 88 no). Nottinghamshire Outlaws beat Glamorgan Dragons by 3 runs.

At The Foster's Oval: Durham Dynamos 251-5 Innings Complete (J A Daley 105, P D Collingwood 86) v Surrey Lions 192 (A D Brown 51, N C Phillips 4-30). Durham Dynamos beat Surrey Lions by 59 runs.

MINOR COUNTIES CHAMPIONSHIP FINAL- Bournemouth Cumberland 282-5 Innings Complete (D J Pearson 108 no, J M Lewis 60, S T Knox 59) v Dorset 85-2